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Accused spy's claim: He was double agent

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London (Combined Dispatches)—A Canadian professor accused by Britain of spying for the KGB and betraying NATO secrets to Moscow was a double agent for Canada and France who successfully penetrated Soviet intelligence, his defense said yesterday.

A former Canadian cabinet minister who should have known about it said he didn't believe the claim.

Prof. Hugh Hambleton, charged with photographing secret Western documents and passing them to Soviet agents while working at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Paris headquarters from 1956-61, has pleaded innocent.

Defense counsel John Lloyd-Eley disclosed at the Old Bailey, Britain's leading criminal court, the double agent defense in cross-examining the Scotland Yard Special Branch officer who interrogated Hambleton, 60, in London last June.

"DID YOU KNOW that the defense in this case would be that Prof. Hambleton was at all material times a French and Canadian agent who successfully penetrated the Russian espionage organization?" Lloyd-Eley asked Detective Supt. John Westcott.

"I heard something to that effect this morning," Westcott said.

Westcott said he was aware only of news reports that the Canadian government in 1980 publicly waived spy charges against Hambleton after Soviet espionage equipment and NATO documents were found in his possession in Ottawa.

The officer said he had been ordered not to ask the Canadian police for copies of their interviews with Hambleton when he was under investigation in November 1979.

Hambleton's claim of being a double agent was challenged by Alan Lawrence,



Prof. Hugh Hambleton—pleads innocent to spying charges.

ence, Canada's solicitor general in the 1979-80 Progressive Conservative government, who was responsible for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when it arrested Hambleton in 1979.

LAWRENCE TOLD reporters in Ottawa he was not informed at the time that the professor was a double agent.

"If it turns out to be true... I can assure you all hell is going to break loose," he said.

Canadian Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan declined comment on Hambleton's defense and asked opposition members of Parliament not to question the government on the case until the trial was concluded.